

importing commodities such as sugar to meet the shortage in domestic supply. Indian exporters have benefited from exporting their products to Pakistan. There is a growing demand for Indian products in Pakistan. Pakistan has benefited from importing raw materials such as chemicals, pharmaceuticals, dyes, iron ore, etc. and capital goods including machinery.

There is scope for increase in India's trade with Pakistan which has the advantage of low transportation cost because of geographical contiguity, similar consumer choice and taste etc. Both India and Pakistan are members of the South Asia Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC) and have exchanged tariff concessions under SAARC Preferential Trading Arrangements (SAPTA). India has accorded Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status to Pakistan. Pakistan has, however, not accorded MFN Status to India so far.

#### Import and Export Growth Trend

4128. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of export and import growths during the last three years and till date;

(b) the reasons for increasing imports and decreasing exports; and

(c) the remedial steps proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH):

(a) As per Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and

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RAJYA SABHA

Statistics (DGCI&S), Kolkata data, the growth rate of export and import in dollar terms during last three years and this year till date are as follows:—

	Export(%)	Import (%)
1997-98	4.6	6.0
1998-99	(-)5.1	2.2
1999-2000*	11.6	10.2
2000-2001* (April-Feb)	20.03	6.65

\*Provisional

In the last two year exports have been increasing. Imports have not shown any significant increase this year.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Export promotion being a constant endeavor of the Government, a number of steps have been taken to further enhance the export growth which include reduction in transaction costs through decentralisation, simplification of procedures and various other measures as enumerated in the EXIM Policy. Steps have also been taken to promote exports through multilateral and bilateral initiatives, identification of thrust sectors and focus regions. Special Economic Zones are being set up to further boost exports.

#### **Implementation of Indo-Myanmar Trade Treaty**

4129. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND. INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Indo-Myanmar Trade Treaty is not being strictly followed between the two countries;

(b) whether Government are aware that the importing goods such as electronic, garments, Chinese silk, sandals, shoes etc, have been carried over to our side instead of the importable goods which are under the Treaty; and